

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 24, 2006

An act to add and repeal Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 16040) of Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1688, as introduced, Bowen. Foster care: instruction and education pilot project.

Existing law declares the duty of the state to care for and protect the children that it places into foster care. Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services has various powers and duties relating to ensuring that the needs of foster children are met by local child welfare agencies and foster care providers.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to contract with a specified entity to establish, until January 1, 2011, a foster care parent and child home instruction and education pilot project, as specified in the bill. The bill would set forth the purposes of the pilot project, including the duties of the department and the contracting entity, with respect to the operation of the pilot project and the development of materials and curriculum. The bill would require the department to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot project and submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2011. The bill would become inoperative on July 1, 2011, and be repealed as of January 1, 2012.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 16040) is added to Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 1.5. FOSTER CARE PARENT AND CHILD HOME
INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION

16040. (a) The State Department of Social Services shall contract with Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, USA (HIPPY USA) to establish a foster care parent and child home instruction and education pilot project in accordance with this chapter.

(b) The pilot project shall be conducted in two counties that agree to participate, other than Los Angeles County.

(c) The purposes of the pilot project shall be as follows:

(1) To empower foster parents as the primary educators of foster children in their home.

(2) To ensure the foster parents' involvement in school and community life, so as to maximize the chances of successful early school experiences for children three to five years of age.

16042. The pilot project shall use specialized materials, curriculum, and books, designed to strengthen children's cognitive and reading skills, and social and emotional development. The project shall promote, at a minimum, the following objectives:

(a) Helping foster parents to recognize their role as their foster children's first and most influential teachers.

(b) Strengthening of the community-at-large by empowering foster parents.

(c) Preparing foster children for school.

(d) Allowing foster parents to bond with their foster children and move toward adoption.

16044. HIPPY USA shall assist the department in developing, producing, and distributing project materials, curriculum, and books, and shall offer other technical assistance to the department as necessary.

16046. (a) The pilot project shall terminate on January 1, 2011. The department shall prepare a report evaluating the

1 effectiveness of the pilot project and shall submit the report to the
2 appropriate committees of the Legislature by July 1, 2011.
3 (b) This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1, 2011, and
4 as of January 1, 2012, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute is
5 enacted before July 1, 2011, deletes or extends the dates on
6 which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

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